

WYCOMBE BACK HOME AT LAST!

IT'S a case of "home at last" for Wycombe Wanderers tonight (Tuesday) when they stage their first match at Loakes Park for over a month. In fact, the game against Hitchin tonight in the Rothmans Isthmian League Division One, is their first home league match since they beat Sutton 3-2, on December 28.

Wanderers, who have been involved with Berks and Bucks Senior Cup matches for the last four Saturdays, played Hitchin at Topfield only last Tuesday and came away with a 1-0 victory. Mick Holifield scored the goal, a somewhat lucky effort, but it gave Wycombe three deserved points.

On that occasion, a number of injuries meant the Blues were forced to field a re-arranged side with several changes. For tonight's game they should have Gary Hand back in defence which will mean Paul Griffiths standing down. Gary needed six stitches in his knee after an injury in the Slough match, but has now recovered.

One player who may not be fit in time is Terry Reardon, Wycombe's midfield ball winner. He missed Saturday's 7-1 win over Rivets due to a septic throat and is rated by his brother John, Wanderers' assistant manager, as only 50-50. Tony Horseman, who was also missing on Saturday, should be back in the side instead of Dylan Evans.

Hitchin are likely to field the

team that lost at home to Wycombe last week with possibly one change, Bonner may be preferred to Neil Bunker upfront. Otherwise the team will stay the same with former Wycombe players Roger Grant and Tony Brothers operating at left back and in midfield respectively. Grant will be hoping for a better game than at Topfield where he made few of the characteristic overlaps that made him such a Loakes Park favourite.

While Wanderers were involved with the Senior Cup on Saturday, Hitchin were recording their sixth home win in the league by overcoming Hayes 2-1. Howard Kettleborough, who looked particularly dangerous in the air against Wycombe, opened the

scoring with his 21st goal this term, and Bunker made it 2-0 before half time. This victory pushed Hitchin further up the table, having occupied 19th position for the last few weeks.

Although Wycombe dropped from third to fourth in Division One after Dagenham's 3-0 home win over Sutton, which moves them to third, the Blues must have been delighted to see Enfield lose for the first time in five months. The team to beat the runaway leaders were Leatherhead, who won 1-0 with a Barry Webb penalty.

Enfield are, of course, still well out in front but as Wanderers still have to play them twice, Saturday's defeat must have increased their outside chances of retaining the championship.

Latest table

DIVISION ONE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | Pts | C | D |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|---|
| Enfield | 24 | 20 | 1 | 3 | 49 | 14 | 61 | 10 | 4 | |
| Dulwich Hamlet | 28 | 17 | 4 | 7 | 48 | 24 | 55 | 4 | 0 | |
| Dagenham | 22 | 17 | 3 | 3 | 57 | 22 | 54 | 4 | 2 | |
| Wycombe Wanderers | 24 | 15 | 6 | 3 | 42 | 22 | 51 | 1 | 0 | |
| Leatherhead | 24 | 15 | 4 | 5 | 51 | 25 | 49 | 5 | 0 | |
| Ilford | 25 | 14 | 5 | 6 | 56 | 32 | 47 | 4 | 0 | |
| Sutton United | 28 | 13 | 3 | 12 | 49 | 41 | 42 | 2 | 0 | |
| Tooting & Mitcham Utd. | 24 | 12 | 5 | 7 | 32 | 30 | 41 | 7 | 4 | |
| Slough Town | 26 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 45 | 34 | 38 | 4 | 0 | |
| Kingstonian | 29 | 12 | 1 | 16 | 33 | 44 | 37 | 3 | 0 | |
| Walthamstow Avenue | 28 | 10 | 6 | 12 | 41 | 38 | 36 | 8 | 0 | |
| Hendon | 26 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 36 | 42 | 35 | 2 | 0 | |
| Oxford City | 27 | 10 | 4 | 13 | 35 | 38 | 34 | 4 | 0 | |
| Barking | 28 | 9 | 6 | 13 | 46 | 51 | 33 | 4 | 4 | |
| Bishop's Stortford | 23 | 10 | 2 | 11 | 30 | 34 | 32 | 1 | 0 | |
| Clapton | 29 | 10 | 2 | 17 | 35 | 60 | 32 | 18 | 0 | |
| Leytonstone | 26 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 27 | 32 | 29 | 7 | 0 | |
| Hitchin Town | 21 | 8 | 2 | 11 | 31 | 40 | 28 | 2 | 0 | |
| Hayes | 28 | 6 | 7 | 15 | 35 | 49 | 25 | 13 | 4 | |
| Woking | 27 | 6 | 6 | 15 | 28 | 48 | 24 | 5 | 0 | |
| Walton & Hersham | 27 | 5 | 3 | 19 | 25 | 71 | 18 | 5 | 0 | |
| Bromley | 27 | 5 | 1 | 21 | 18 | 58 | 16 | 6 | 4 | |

SATURDAY'S FIXTURES

K.O. 3 p.m. unless stated
Rothmans Isthmian League,
Division One: Clapton v Wycombe
Wanderers.

Spartan League: Chalfont St.
Peter v Bracknell Town, Kingsbury
Town v Amersham Town (2.45 p.m.)

Rothmans Hellenic League,
Premier Division Challenge Cup,
round 2: Abingdon Town v Burnham.